ISICR
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INTERFERON AND CYTOKINE RESEARCH
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Future ISICR Meetings

Oct. 21-24, 2004
San Juan, Puerto Rico
(Joint with ICS)
www.cytokines2004.org
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Oct. 20-25, 2005
Shanghai, China

2006 (Joint ISICR/ICS)
Vienna, Austria

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www.ISICR.org

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A Farewell note from outgoing ISICR President Keiko Ozato

Dear ISICR members,


Keiko Ozato

It has been an enormous honor to serve as the ISICR President for the past two years. To a naïve, solitary bench scientist who knows little about running a society, the task of presidency seemed formidable in the beginning. Knowing that in addition to my naivety, I was totally untrained for the job, the thought of hiding out or running away often appeared attractive during this time.

Reflecting on the past two years, it is clear that the ISICR has survived this period by the "bottom-up" presidency, entirely consisting of community efforts by many dedicated ISICR officers and members. I heavily relied on the ISICR Board of

*(See **Ozato**, page 2)*

ISICR Election Results:

For President 2006-2007 – Otto Haller

An Interview with Dr. George R. Stark

Hannah Nguyen


George R. Stark

In July 2003 a research symposium and celebration was held at the Lerner Research Institute of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, in honor of George R. Stark's 70th birthday. Generations of students and postdocs and close colleagues of George Stark attended this 2-day event and commemorated the many years of George Stark as a successful scientist and as a wonderful friend. We took advantage of this opportunity to catch him in an interview.

*(See **Stark**, page 3)*

***Ozato**, from page 1*

Directors, Sam Baron, Eleanor Fish, Ara Hovanessian, Tada Taniguchi, Ganes Sen, Sidney Pestka, Bryan Williams, and Howard Young for dealing with all the issues that arose during this period. These individuals helped me address these issues in a cooperative, professional and timely manner. I cannot thank Howard Young, incoming ISICR President, enough, as I frequently consulted with him on many issues that came up. He provided me with constructive advice and rapidly responded to my questions, very often before the end of the day.

Research in our field moved forward with startling speed in this two year period, including the discovery of type III IFNs, elucidation of plasmacytoid dendritic cells and IFN production therein, small interfering (si) RNAs, new questions about IFN signaling, the discovery of IKKε, and signaling by IRF3 and its 3-D structure, and the use of new imaging technology to visualize IFN signaling in live cells, just to mention a few of the recent advancements. Progress has continued in the clinical arena as well, establishing IFN administration as a definitive therapeutic strategy for hepatitis C. I am indeed pleased to realize that many of these advancements were made by ISICR members. The 2002 ISICR/ICS joint meeting in Torino Italy and 2003 ISICR Annual meeting in Cairns, Australia featured many reports of the exciting progress in the field. The two meetings provided us with great opportunities to absorb new knowledge and to exchange our scientific thoughts. I am very grateful to Santo Landolfo and Paul Hertzog, for their exceptional efforts in organizing excellent meetings in pleasant environments. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that Paul Hertzog and the meeting organizers assembled, for the first time, a meeting Abstract Book without the help of the publisher, Mary Ann Liebert. The Abstract Book was of high quality and convenient to use, as testified by a number of meeting attendees. Publication of the Abstract Book by the meeting organizers is a new practice and was a success, as it saved considerable time and money and thus should continue in the future. In this regard it is important to note that the Milstein Award of the ISICR has become the hallmark of scientific excellence in our field and that the Milstein Family Foundation decided to continue the Milstein Award after Mr. Seymour Milstein's passing in 2001. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Sidney Pestka who has made the continuation of the award possible. On this occasion, I also would like to acknowledge the efforts of Dr.Masayoshi Kohase. Dr. Kohase helped raise funds from five Japanese pharmaceutical companies to support the 2003 ISICR Cairns Meeting. Without his help, it would have been impossible to have obtained their support for our meeting. Dr. Kohase has been active in the JSICR, the Japanese branch of ISICR that has more than 300 members and a long distinguished history of interferon and cytokine research.

Lastly, I am particularly pleased to be able to announce the launch of the online access to JICR by all ISICR members. This is due to the generous underwriting of the entire cost by the PBL, the reagent supply company. I am indebted to Victor Lee-Own and Robert Pestka, president and CEO of PBL as well as Menachem Rubinstein of ISICR who have transformed the idea of on line access to reality within a short period of time. Please see The Three On Line Steps to JICR elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, what gives me the greatest pleasure and the sense of assurance in completing my presidency is the fact that from January 2004, the society will be presided over by Howard Young of NIH through 2005, followed by Otto Haller of Germany in 2006 and 2007. I am very confident that under their leadership our future will be bright and the ISICR will continue to prosper.

Thank you and Sayonara!
Keiko Ozato, Ph.D

*(**Stark**, from page 1)*

George R. Stark, Ph.D.

George Stark has made significant and lasting contributions to a remarkably broad range of research areas in biochemistry and molecular biology. Early work on enzyme mechanisms and protein chemistry led to the development of the Northern and Western techniques for analysis of specific RNAs and proteins. His laboratory has also studied gene amplification in mammalian cells, leading to an appreciation both of the mechanisms that generate amplified structures and the regulatory processes that prevent amplification from occurring in normal cells. A major project was to apply systematic genetic analysis to interferon-dependent signaling pathways. In collaboration with Dr. Ian Kerr, eight different mutant cell lines were isolated, each complemented by a cDNA encoding a different protein in the pathway. The work with interferon, together with that of Dr. James Darnell, led to the discovery of the family of JAK-STAT signaling pathways which mediate responses to many different extracellular factors. A similar genetic approach is now being used to analyze signaling pathways that activate NFkB, to isolate and characterize negative regulators of NFkB, and to identify novel aspects of p53-dependent signaling. Over a research career of more than 40 years, George Stark has been both an exceptional investigator of research problems and an innovator in the methodologies used in each of these areas.

Biography

Dr. Stark was born in New York City in 1933 and earned a Ph.D. degree in Chemistry from Columbia University in 1959. After a postdoctoral fellowship with Drs. William Stein and Stanford Moore at the Rockefeller University, he joined the Department of Biochemistry at Stanford University in 1963, becoming Professor in 1971. In 1983, he moved to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London as Associate Director of Research. Dr. Stark was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1986 and to the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1990. He has also received the Sober, Milstein and Coley Awards. In July 1992, he became the Chair of the Lerner Research Institute of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, a position he held until August 2002. Under his leadership, the Institute has doubled the number of laboratories and completed a $130 million expansion of research and educational facilities. The amount of external funding of LRI laboratories has consistently increased as has the reputation of the Institute in the scientific community. In October 2002, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He currently holds the title of Distinguished Scientist and runs a busy laboratory in the Lerner Research Institute.

Throughout his long career, George has been a tremendous mentor and colleague who has approached every scientific challenge with energy, enthusiasm and insight. The many students and fellows trained in his lab that have gone on to highly productive scientific careers of their own are a testament to his skills as a mentor and role model. George's 70th birthday is just another milestone in a remarkable career. George's curiosity, energy and vision insure that we will see many more exciting and unexpected discoveries coming from his lab in the years ahead.

Courtesy of George R. Stark and Rick Padgett

1. Do you have any thoughts or feelings as this Symposium is starting to take place?

My first overwhelming feeling is that of humility. I am mildly surprised that what I have done is worthy of something, and am very happy that people have given the effort to do it. I am very proud of the people presenting and not presenting talks; it is nice to see how well people that have been in my lab are doing. The other thought is that celebrations like this one can mark the end of one's career but I don't feel like it at all - I plan to keep doing what I'm doing.

2. What are your current and future scientific goals?

Most generally, I'd like to continue to investigate basic phenomena in mammalian cells at the level of signaling events. We are trying to use genetics as much as possible and to develop better genetic methods to investigate signaling, so there is a strong methods component to our research. Things that we work on are pretty relevant to human disease so genetic methods can give rise to clinical material. For example, our research on the role of constitutive NF-kappa B in cancer is relevant to clinical studies, and our novel role of STAT3 in cancer involves analyses of patient

(***Starks**, from page 3)*

material. Collaborations with clinical labs are necessary in conjunction with our genetic studies to further understand human disease; specific questions can be asked of clinical material with such collaborations, and this is fun. Research in my laboratory is quite diverse, covering cytokine-mediated signaling, NF-kappa B, and p53.

3. When you compare research at the time you just started and now, what would you say is the biggest difference?

It was like starting in the Stone Age! We have made several quantum leaps since then. We asked good research questions then, but simply did not have the tools to investigate them like we do now. There has been a complete revolution in what you can do now. The questions we asked then seem so simple-minded and trivial compared to now, there were no mechanistic questions at all. The tools that we have now just started to come out then, molecular biology just did not exist. Now the tools are so great that we can address complex mechanisms in response to cytokines and scrape and scrape layers and see how complicating cells are in responding to signals. Due to these great tools, we now think very differently about science. When I was a grad student and postdoc, I worked on enzymes; I specialized in the biochemistry but not at all in molecular biology. Cellular biology was still in its infancy; people didn't know how to grow cells. You have to remember that I started out in a different field, and was slow to get to what I do now. People already started to work on molecular and cellular biology before I started. It all happened in 1970 when I took my sabbatical and realized that protein chemistry just wasn't going to be enough for the research that I wanted to pursue. I took a wonderful course at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSB) with Thomas Benjamin and Howard Temin and then went to Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) with Lionel Crawford working on SV40, and that's how I switched to molecular biology.

4. In which direction do you think interferon and cytokine research is heading?

I think there is still a lot to learn. I can't really comment on cytokines, since the field is so broad, but I can provide the following example. Xiaoxia's work shows the amazing complexity in which cells respond to interleukin-1. Even if you restrict your search to what activates NF-kappa B, it is now clear that there are over 20 proteins that are required to get the signal from the interleukin-1 receptor to NF-kappa B. There is a complicated ballet inside cells consisting of a series of physical events where different complexes are formed at different places. In the case of interferon research, there are still discoveries being made in the interferon pathway in my lab and in other labs. For example, although STAT1 is required for gene expression, for most genes it is not sufficient; another signal is required. We are just beginning to uncover that it requires the I-kappaB kinases. This is a fascinating mystery to work out now. A recent paper from Ian Kerr's lab involving microarray experiments show that different cells in different individuals demonstrate an enormous heterogeneity in terms of how they respond to interferons, which seems so unexpected – at least by me – that there is so much uncommonality between individuals. So there is still very much to investigate on the basis to the cellular response and how everything comes together in different cell types, in different individuals. So for me, this is still a very active field with lots to do, and I am looking forward to go to other interferon and cytokine meetings.

5. What is your idea of relaxation and your idea of ultimate stress?

Ultimate stress happens when a grant does not get funded, or when a good paper that has been submitted bounces back with unjust criticism. It is also stressful when there are personnel problems in the lab, when you are dealing with many bright individuals and each of which have different eccentricities – you end up putting out more fires than you want to. It is important to help people sort out their idiosyncrasies and deal with the social in addition to the academic aspect of science.

Relaxation? I enjoy so many things. I enjoy all of the arts. I collect records. I read books of all kinds. I look at fine art and collect to the extent I can afford. I didn't come from a family where these were regarded very highly. My interests started in a Liberal Arts course I took at Columbia, which set me up for the rest of my life. Unfortunately I like to collect. Mary objects but I've get her under control by threatening to collect cars! I also enjoy sports and physical activity. I love to

(***Starks**, from page 4)*
read the newspaper to keep up with world affairs. I am the kind of person that can't devote 100% of my time to science; I must make time to do other things.

6. What is your favorite book?
That is a hard one, because I have many favorites. Only one...hmmmm....I guess if I had to choose one it would be Moby Dick.

7. What is your favorite CD?
I actually don't have a favorite CD since most of my music is on analog LPs. I like the way they sound. It's also hard for me to choose one favorite album. I love early music, renaissance music such as that of Henry Purcell's "Music for the funeral of Queen Mary".

8. Do you have mentors or scientists that you look up to?
Lots. There is William Stein and Stanford Moore. They got along so well that they were able to work together and share a joint lab. They were wonderful scientists and a great example as to how science could be done. Then there are my colleagues at Stanford – Arthur Kornberg, Paul Berg, Bob Lehman and Dale Kaiser. They comprised what I think was the best biochemistry department that ever existed. Such a remarkable department, because you learn not only good science but the good attitudes towards it, how interactive and collaborative science can be.

9. How would you describe yourself as a person?
I am an intellectual who thinks that it is very important to be a normal person and to be able to interact well with all kinds of people. I think that I do interact well with others but it's important to *want* to do it and be successful at it. I aim to have informal and fun relationships with everybody.

10. Among your many publications, do you have some that have had more of an impact for you scientifically?
There are a number of papers which I found have turned my lab around completely. There are the papers describing our development of the Northern and Western blotting techniques. There is the paper describing the development of N-(phosphonoacetyl)-L-aspartate (PALA) as an inhibitor of aspartate transcarbamylase. There is the paper first describing gene amplification with Rick Padgett and Geoff Wahl. There is the paper describing the nature of carbamyl-P synthetase/aspartate transcarbamylase/dihydro-orotase (CAD). And then there is the paper with Sandra Pellegrini showing that we can obtain cell lines with mutations in IFN signaling.

11. How did your discovery of Northern blots, Western blots and PALA come about?
We were interested in analyzing the nature of the mRNA for the CAD gene. At the time the way that we went about it was to run a 10 cm tube gel, freeze it, put it into an egg slicer to chop it into 100 pieces, put each of the 100 pieces into an eppendorf tube using forceps, hybridize each piece with a radioactive probe and then counted each piece in scintillation vials. We did that experiment only once and never again. We were aware of the method that Southern had developed, in which DNA was put onto a support and hybridized. We asked ourselves, why can't we do that for RNA? But the supports that were used to bind DNA did not work for RNA. We had to figure out how to derivatize the paper to bind RNA. We performed diazotization (which converts nitro groups to diazonium groups) to generate reactive groups on paper that would bind RNA covalently (via the aromatic rings in the RNA). We repeated Southern's method using our new paper and it worked the first time around. Then we thought that since proteins also have aromatic rings, that proteins separated by SDS-PAGE should also be able to bind the same support. We tried that, and that too worked.

Our discovery of PALA came from the work of Kim Colins, at the time a graduate student in my lab. We were interested in determining the mechanism of aspartate transcarbamylase. We were purposely looking for a specific tight-binding, reversible inhibitor of the enzyme. We ended up with PALA, which turned out to be a very specific inhibitor with optimum binding properties. Then I went to England, where I was just starting to learn about mammalian cell culture. I had taken some PALA with me and decided to throw it on cells, - I did it myself – and it killed the cells, except for a small population which were resistant to PALA. We later discovered that the resistance to PALA was due to gene amplification. PALA has been intensively studied since then, though not a lot in clinical trials.

12. You have turned the Lerner Research Institute into a prestigious and competitive institution during your 10 year term as Chairman. How did you do it? What was your strategy?

I think that the key is to recruit the best scientists you can with interests in the fields which are of importance to the LRI. Then you let them do their thing, let them be independent scientists. You provide them with anything that they may need to be as productive as possible, such as common resources, internal funding, seed or interim funding and faculty salary. We have to also take into consideration the value of our high quality and in-house central cores, which make life much easier and more affordable. Our scientists need the most supportive environment that makes them easy to function, and we are very fortunate that CCF has provided that for us. I am very happy with the research building itself, with its functional nice labs. Another major contributing factor to our success as a research institute is the presence of strong chairs which really drive the various departments, individuals such as Bryan Williams and Tom Hamilton.

13. What was it like when you just started your lab?
At the beginning I was scared to death and felt totally insecure. I was a protein chemist specialized in enzyme mechanisms, and that is what Stanford wanted. But I was surrounded by high powered scientists that did stuff that I was not familiar with. With time I got settled and then became less insecure. Although Stanford wanted me, they did research that was so much different that at the beginning it was a challenge to be able to communicate. While Mary and I were driving from New York to California, I asked her, "Mary, what if I can't think of another experiment to do?" Mary said, "That won't be a problem – I think you will have trouble deciding what *not* to do!"

14. What advice do you give to scientists in training? What to you are the key elements of a successful lab?
You have to work on significant problems. Don't be afraid of doing hard problems and don't work on too straightforward projects. You have to know how to work with people and how to communicate well. You have to enjoy doing science – if you are not having fun, you won't do it well. The most challenging thing is how to be creative and original. It takes time and experience. It helps to have mentors that show you how to do that.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW

Your continuing membership is the glue that holds our society together!!!!!!! Membership Renewal is now available online at www.isicr.org. Not sure when your membership is up and needs to be renewed??? Check your mailing label!

2004 ISICR AWARDS

The Milstein Award

Individuals who have made exceptional contributions to research related to interferons and cytokines either in a basic or clinical field. Milstein awards are made possible by the generous gift of Mrs. Seymour Milstein and family through the Milstein Foundation. This award represents a pinnacle of scientific achievement in our field and is an important landmark of the society.

Honorary Membership

Nominees should be individuals who have made substantive contributions to the interferon/cytokine field over much of their careers, either in basic, clinical or applied research. Honorary members are the treasures of our society and provide us with an historical perspective and valued research tradition.

We invite your nominations for eligible candidates for these prestigious symbols of recognition by our society for outstanding achievements. A brief exposition of the reason for your nomination and other supportive documents (such as CV, if available) should be sent to the ISICR President by March 1:

Howard A. Young, Ph.D.
Laboratory of Experimental Immunology
Center for Cancer Research
NCI-Frederick
Chandler Street, Bldg. 560/31-23
Frederick, MD 21702-1201
Tel: 301-846-5700
Fax: 301-846-1673
Email: youngh@ncifcrf.gov

The nominations will be collated, and passed on to the Chair of the Awards Committee in early March. This committee will then prepare a short list of candidates and vote for winners of the awards. As specified in the ISICR Constitution, the final vote of the Awards Committee is subject to the approval of the ISICR Board of Directors.

Milstein Young Investigator Awards ($1,000)

Eligibility: ISICR members and are less than 8 years after receiving a Ph.D or M.D degree. Every year up to five Young Investigator Awards are presented to ISICR members who have made notable contributions to either basic or clinical research within 8 years after receiving their Ph.D or M.D.. This award is provided by a generous gift of the Milstein Foundation. We urge every eligible individual to apply for the awards. We also ask more senior laboratory advisers to encourage their associates to apply. Send your 2004 Meeting abstract and CV to:

Dr.Paula Pitha-Rowe,
Chair, ISICR Awards Committee
Johns Hopkins University
Dept. of Oncology
1650 Orleans Street
Rm 221
Baltimore, MD 21206
FAX: 410-955-0840,
Email: parowe@jhmi.edu

We plan on having a check-off box in the abstract form for easy identification of the eligible candidates. A brief note describing your accomplishments and a letter of recommendation from your adviser, are strongly encouraged. The deadline is the same as that of the Meeting abstract for the 2004 ISICR/ICS Meeting.

(***Awards**, from page 8)*

The Christina Fleischmann Memorial Award to Young Women Investigators ($1,000)

The rules for this ISICR award are the same as for the Milstein Young Investigator Award (see above) except for gender and that candidates are less than 10 years after receiving a PhD or M.D. degree.

Travel Awards

ISICR members who intend to attend the 2004 ISICR/ICS meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico are eligible for Travel Awards. They are provided primarily through the membership fees, based on the scientific merit of the abstract and financial necessity. However, this award does not exempt payment of the registration fee. Please note that there are no age restrictions to this award. However if both senior and junior members from the same laboratory apply for an award, preference will be given to the junior member. Send your meeting abstract and a note explaining the need for a Travel Award to Dr. Paula Pitha-Rowe, Chair, ISICR Awards Committee (the deadline is the same as that of the Meeting abstract, June 11).

AAI 2005 Meeting

The ISICR has once again been invited to organize a guest symposium at the 2005 American Association of Immunologists meeting in San Diego, California April 2 - 6. Any ISICR member who will be attending the meeting and would like to participate in the symposium, should please contact Howard Young.

Reveiws of Interest

Adorini L. Cytokine-based immunointervention in the treatment of autoimmune diseases. *Clin Exp Immunol* 132 (2): 185-192, 2003.

Agnello D, Lankford CSR, Bream J, Morinbou A, Gadina M, O'Shea JJ, Frucht DM. Cytokines and transcription factors that regulate T helper cell differentiation: New players and new insights. *J Clin. Immunol.* 23(3): 147-161, 2003

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Campbell DJ, Kim CH, Butcher EC. Chemokines in the systemic organization of immunity. *Immunol Rev* 195: 58-71, 2003

Conti P, Kempuraj D, Frydas S, Kandere K, Boucher W, Letourneau R, Madhappan B, Sagimoto K, Christodoulou S and Theoharides TC. IL-10 subfamily members: IL-19, IL-20, IL-22, IL-24 and IL-26. *Immunol Lett* 88(3): 171-174, 2003.

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Derynck R and Zhang YE. Smad-dependent and Smad-independent pathways in TGF-β family signaling. *Nature* 425 (6958): 577-584, 2003.

Hancock WW, Wang L, Ye Q, Han R and Lee I. Chemokines and their receptors as markers of allograft rejection and targets for immunosuppression. *Curr Opinion Immunol* 15(5): 479-486, 2003.

Hertzog PJ, O'Neill LA and Hamilton JA. The interferon in TLR signaling: more than just antiviral. *Trends in Immunol* 24(10): 534-539, 2003

Horwitz DA, Zheng SG, Gray JD. The role of the combination of IL-2 and TGF-beta or IL-10 in the generation and function of CD4+ CD25+ and CD8+ regulatory T cell subsets. *J Leukoc Biol.* 74(4):471-8, 2003

Ito T, Ikeda U. Inflammatory cytokines and cardiovascular disease. *Curr Drug Targets Inflamm Allergy.* 2(3):257-65, 2003

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Martinez-Moczygemba M, Huston DP. Biology of common beta receptor-signaling cytokines: IL-3, IL-5, and GM-CSF. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 112(4):653-65, 2003.

McInnes IB, Gracie JA, Harnett M, Harnett W, Liew FY. New strategies to control inflammatory synovitis: interleukin 15 and beyond. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 62 Suppl 2:ii51-4, 2003

Pfeffer K. Biological functions of tumor necrosis factor cytokines and their receptors. *Cytokine & Growth Factor Rev.* 14(3-4): 185-191, 2003.

Roberts RM, Ezashi T, Rosenfeld CS, Ealy AD, Kubisch HM. Evolution of the interferon tau genes and their promoters, and maternal-trophoblast interactions in control of their expression. *Reprod Suppl.* 61: 239-251, 2003.

Tsutsui H, Adachi K, Seki E, Nakanishi K. Cytokine-induced inflammatory liver injuries. *Curr Mol Med.* 3(6):545-59, 2003.

Yadav D and Sarvetnick N. Cytokines and autoimmunity: redundancy defines their complex nature. *Curr Opinion Immunol.* 15(6): 697-703, 2003

Three steps to online JICR access:

1) Open our web site
www.isicr.org

2) Click the oval shaped On Line Access to JICR

3) You see the PBL logo. Enter the Universal Username (as provided in a membership email). Contact the ISICR membership office for this password if you believe your membership is current and you did not receive this email.

*(**WWW**, continued on page 16)*

Clinical Trials

More information on this list can be obtained at http://clinicaltrials.gov [CT], http://www.centerwatch.com/search.asp [CW], or http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov [CCNIH].

Intrapleural BG00001 (i.e. using BG00001 to insert the gene for **interferon-beta** into a person's pleural cavity) in Treating Patients With Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma or Malignant Pleural Effusions. Contacts: Adri Recio, RN, Tel: 215-573-6760, Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19104; Study Chair: Daniel H. Sterman, MD, University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center. Study ID Numbers CDR0000315899; UPCC-01502

Zenapax (daclizumab; a humanized monoclonal antibody against the **IL-2 receptor alpha** chain) administered to Patients with Multiple Sclerosis (ZAP MS). Contact: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland, 20892. Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office 1-800-411-1222 TTY 1-866-411-1010. Study ID Numbers 040019; 04-N-0019

Phase II Study of Low-Dose PEG-**Interferon alfa-2b** in Patients with Metastatic Melanoma Over-Expressing **Basic Fibroblast Growth Factor**. Contact: Kelly Filchner, MSN, RN, OCN, CCRC, Network Clinical Studies Coordinator, St. Luke's Hospital & Health Network, 801 Osturm Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015, Tel: 610-954-3582; Fax: 610-954-3583; Email: filchnk@slhn.org. Centerwatch study posting 2835.

Treatment of Patients with Metastatic Melanoma Using Lymphocytes (TIL Cells) Transduced with an **interleukin-2 (SBIL-2)** Gene following the Administration of a Nonmyeloablative But Lymphocyte Depleting Regimen. Contact: Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4754 Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 301-594-9774 (local),1-866-411-1010 (toll free), Fax: 301-480-9793; E- mail: http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/cgi/protmail.cgi?PRPL+03-C-0162. Protocol Number: 03-C-0162.

Comprehensive Epitope Mapping of the Epstein-Barr Virus Latent Membrane Protein-2 in Ethnically Diverse Populations, by measuring **interferon-gamma** transcript levels in circulating lymphocytes exposed to a library of overlapping nonamer peptides encompassing the full sequence of LMP 2, accompanied by high resolution, sequence-based HLA typing. Contact: Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4754 Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 301-594-9774 (local),1-866-411-1010 (toll free), Fax: 301-480-9793; Email: http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/cgi/protmail.cgi?PRPL+04-CC-0007. Protocol number: 04-CC-0007.

Anakinra (recombinant **interleukin**-1 receptor antagonist) Mediated Tumor Regression and Angiogenesis Inhibition in Patients with Cancers Producing **interleukin**-1. Contact: Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4754 Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 301-594-9774 (local),1-866-411-1010 (toll free), Fax: 301-480-9793; Email: http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/cgi/protmail.cgi?PRPL+03-C-0281. Protocol number: 03-C-0281

Induction of Mucosal Tolerance to Human **E-Selectin** for the Secondary Prevention of Stroke. Contact: Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4754 Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 301-594-9774 (local),1-866-411-1010 (toll free), Fax: 301-480-9793; E-Mail: http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/cgi/protmail.cgi?PRPL+03-N-0293. Protocol Number: 03-N-0293

Safety, Tolerability, Pharmacokinetics and Efficacy of Subcutaneous Bay 50-4798 (is similar to **interleukin-2** and to Proleukin, but may not stimulate the immune system to produce the adverse effects of Proleukin) Administration in patients with HIV Infection on Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) Compared to patients on HAART Alone. Contact: Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4754 Toll

Free: 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 301-594-9774 (local),1-866-411-1010 (toll free), Fax: 301-480-9793; E-mail: http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/cgi/protmail.cgi?PRPL+03-I-0021. Protocol Number: 03-I-0021

An International Study to Evaluate Anti-HIV Therapy Plus **Interleukin-2 (rIL-2)** in HIV-Positive Patients. Contacts in the USA, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Isreal, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and United Kingdom. Study chairs: Donald Abrams and David Cooper. Study ID Numbers ESPRIT 001; 00 I-0071

Safety, Efficacy, and Pharmacokinetics of the Human Anti-**TNF** Monoclonal Antibody Adalimumab in Children With Polyarticular Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Studies in the USA, Belgium, France, Germany Italy, Slovakia and Spain. Contact: Monika Miranda (973)-394-5514 email to: monika.miranda@abbott.com. Study ID numbers DE038

The Neural Immune Mechanisms and Genetic Influences on Chronic Pelvic Pain in Women with Endometriosis (relations among sex hormones, pain processing, immune system substances (**cytokines**) and pain related genes in the blood, endometriosis lesions and normal endometrial tissue). Contact: Patient Recruitment and Public Liaison Office, Building 61, 10 Cloister Court, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-4754 Toll Free: 1-800-411-1222, TTY: 301-594-9774 (local),1-866-411-1010 (toll free), Fax: 301-480-9793; E-mail: http://clinicalstudies.info.nih.gov/cgi/protmail.cgi?PRPL+04-CH-0056. Protocol Number: 04-CH-0056

Interleukin-2 and **Stem Cell Factor** in Treating Patients With AIDS or AIDS-Related Cancer. Contacts: Zale Bernstein, MD, Study Chair, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York, 14263-0001, Tel: 716-845-8075, e-mail: zale.bernstein@roswellpark.org; and Michael Anthony Caligiuri, MD, Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital - Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 43210, Tel: 614-293-7521. Study ID Numbers CDR0000285694; RPCI-RP-9911. ISICR

ISICR member Jim Darnell receives National Medal of Science

President George W. Bush named Dr. James Darnell as one of 8 laureates to receive the 2002 National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology. The honorees received the medals at a White House ceremony on November 6, 2003.

The National Medal of Science honors individuals in a variety of fields for pioneering scientific research that has led to a better understanding of the world around us, as well as to the innovations and technologies that give the United States its global economic edge. The National Science Foundation administers the award, established by Congress in 1959. When the President confered the awards, 409 distinguished scientists and engineers will have received the medal. For more information about the National Medal of Science visit www.nsf.gov/nsb/awards/nms/medal.htm.

NEW MEMBERS

The ISICR welcomes the following new members to the society. We look forward to their active participation in the Annual Meeting and on ISICR committees (Please contact ISICR President Dr. Howard Young regarding committee membership. Volunteers are always welcome and needed!!!!).

Lena Alexopoulou
New Haven, CT

Jeanette K. Blomberg
Umea, Sweden

Tsu-Fan Cheng
Stony Brook, NY

Tammy J. Ferguson
Richmond, VA

Christopher J. Greenhalgh
Parkville, Australia

Kauppinen Hanna-Leena
Helsinki, Finland

Ge Liu
Manassa, VA

Ling Liu
Stony Brook, NY

Louise Ludlow
East Melbourne, Australia

Gail Y. McClure
Little Rock, AR

Abhay R. Satoskar
Columbus, OH

Kate DeVere Sutherland
Melbourne, Australia

Yutaka Tagaya
Bethesda, MD

Emmanuel Thomas
Miami, FL

Takaya Tsuno
Nagoya, Japan

Christine A. Wells
Brisbane, Australia

Keji Zhao
Bethesda, MD

PIs/Senior Investigators!!

Urge your fellows/students to join and maintain their membership in the ISICR. Remember membership for fellows/students is only $10/year!!!!

Another guaranteed ISICR Recipe

(guaranteed to make every chocolate lover in your lab very, very happy!!!)

Molten Chocolate Cakes

MAKES FOUR 6-0UNCE CAKES

1 stick (4 ounces) unsalted butter
6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, preferably Valrhona
2 eggs
2 egg yolks
¼ cup sugar
Pinch of salt
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1. Preheat the oven to 450°. Butter and lightly flour four 6-ounce ramekins. Tap out the excess flour. Set the ramekins on a baking sheet.

2. In a double boiler, over simmering water, melt the butter with the chocolate. In a medium bowl, beat the eggs with the egg yolks, sugar and salt at high speed until thickened and pale.

3. Whisk the chocolate until smooth. Quickly fold it into the egg mixture along with the flour. Spoon the batter into the prepared ramekins and bake for 12 minutes, or until the sides of the cakes are firm but the centers are soft. Let the cakes cool in the ramekins for 1 minute, then cover each with an inverted dessert plate.
Carefully turn each one over, let stand for 10 seconds and then unmold.

Serve immediately. Add a scoop of vanilla ice cream on the side.

Make Ahead
The batter can be refrigerated for several hours; bring to room temperature before baking.

The World Congress on In Vitro Biology

The World Congress on In Vitro Biology, an international congress held every four years, focuses on issues pertinent to Plant, Vertebrate, Invertebrate, and Cellular Toxicology research and will give participants a unique learning experience on plant and animal cell culture and biotechnology. The fifth World Congress in 2004, co-sponsored by the Japanese Tissue Culture Society (JTCA), Japanese Association for Animal Cell Technology (JAACT), Japanese Society of Plant Cell & Molecular Biology (JSPCMB), Swiss Tissue Culture Society (STCS), European Tissue Culture Society (ETCS), and the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology (IAPTCB) will be held May 22 - 26, 2004 in San Francisco, California. The World Congress theme, "Emerging Global Technologies," will attract scientific participation from many countries. A list of preliminary World Congress plenary symposiums, educational workshops, and program topics is available at http://www.sivb.org/meetings.asp

ISICR I
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ISICR 2005 Meeting organizer - Xin-yuan Liu

2003 Milstein Award Winner John Hiscott

Meeting organizer Paul Hertzog

Opening Session Speaker - Jim Darnell

ISICR President Keiko Ozato

Photos
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Milstein Young Investigator Akinori Takaoka

Milstein Young Investigator Saumendra Sarkar

Milstein Young Investigator Friedemann Weber

Christina Fleischmann Memorial Awardee
Ann Cornish

Milstein Young Investigator Barbora Lubyova

(*WWW, continued from page 9)*

BEN/BioSciEdnet.org:

www.biosciednet.org/portal

A Digital Library of the Biological Sciences for Biology Teaching. Numerous animations, videos, assignments, presentations and other resources for the biology instructor.

Bioinformatics

http://post.queensu.ca/~forsdyke/bioinfor.htm

A bioinformatics web-page with links to other bioinformatic sources.

Biotechnology Information Directory Section: The World Wide Web Virtual Library

www.cato.com/biotech

Contains over 2000 links to companies, research institutes, universities, sources of information and other directories specific to biotechnology, pharmaceutical development and related fields.

Biovisa.net: Online Protocol, Journal and Forum Center

www.biovisa.net

Free access to numerous protocols in many life science disciplines (1136 protocols for molecular biology/biochemistry alone)

BRENDA(TM) - the digital lexicon of enzymes!

www.brenda.uni-koeln.de

Effective November 2003, BIOBASE tooks over the worldwide distribution of the BRENDA(TM) database. BRENDA(TM), the main collection of enzyme functional data, contains information on 80,000 enzymes, which have been largely extracted by hand from scientific publications. A team of experts from enzymeta GmbH along with Prof. Dr. Schomburg (University of Cologne) maintains and develops the database. -It is available free-of-charge for academic, non-profit users via the internet. Commercial users have to license the database

Conference Calendar

http://www.abcam.com/go.cfm?v=19003&p=124

Abcam conference calendar with nearly 1,500 conferences.

DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals

www.doaj.org

Provides access to a variety of free journals in an array of disciplines

Drug Discovery and Development

www.dddmag.com

Free magazine with the latest drug discovery tools and techniques.

EBI 2can bioinformatics resource

http://www.ebi.ac.uk/2can/home.html

This site provides short and concise introductions to basic concepts in molecular and cell biology and bioinformatics. The main emphasis is placed on making it as easy as possible for the user to understand which tools and databases are available from the EBI. The site content aims to make these services easier and more accessible, but also provides links to other sites where similar resources are maintained and well supported.

2can Tutorials

http://www.ebi.ac.uk/2can/tutorials/index.html

Learn how to use the tools at the EBI to find out more about your Nucleotide or Protein sequences. You will be guided through a series of exercises using sample fragments of sequence. To gain more information about these sequences, you will use a variety of tools to compare the sequences to databases and analyse them.

2can Glossary

http://www.ebi.ac.uk/cgi-bin/search/glossary.pl

2can Sitemap

http://www.ebi.ac.uk/2can/sitemap.html

Rab A. Harper
E-mail:harper@ebi.ac.uk
EMBL Outstation -
The EBI URL: http://www.ebi.ac.uk
Wellcome Trust Genome Campus
Telephone: +44 (0)1223 494 429
Hinxton Hall, Cambridge CB10
1SD UK Fax: +44 (0)1223 494 468

euGenes Genomic Information for Eukaryotic Organisms

http://eugenes.org/

euGenes provides a common summary of gene and genomic information from eukaryotic organism databases. This includes
- Gene symbol and full name,
- Chromosome, genetic and molecular map information,
- Gene product information (function, structure, and homologies).
- Links to extended gene information.

This summary is automatically maintained from the primary databases.

Genomics and Proteomics

www.genpromag.com

Free magazine with the latest trends, tools and techniques in genomics and proteomics.

The History of Cell Biology

http://actomyosin.narod.ru

I have created a web-page about the history of cell biology for the International Federation for Cell Biology and would like to use this message board to enhance some of my descriptions. I ask everybody, including librarians, to help me to ensure the accuracy of my information.

Searching the Internet I quickly understood that web-sites often contradict or ignore each other. There many contradictions in descriptions of the same facts or events. I would like to try resolve at least a small part of these discrepancies Even small historical problems need the collective participation of all who are aware of at least part of the truth. I am not so fluent in English and therefore I can not reply to every message. I ask that scientists who are close to the facts, docu-ments and other information to help me with this website. Interesting reflections are welcome as well. Thank you all in advance.

The topic # 1. Actin history.
It is commonly accepted that actin was discovered by Straub (1942). Straub, who was working in Szent-Gyorgyi's laboratory extracted myosin A (now known as myosin) from fresh muscle and from the residue left over he isolated a new protein. This new protein, when added to myosin A, formed a highly viscous solution, similarly to what was known for myosin B (now known as actomyosin). Thus, Straub provided evidence that his new protein activated myosin A and therefore, called it actin. However, 46 years later, Finck (1968) found Halliburton's paper of 1887. In this study, protein was isolated form muscle and named 'myosin-ferment' which 'coagulated' myosin A quickly, i.e. strongly interacted with myosin A. The question arises: who is discoverer of actin in fact, Strub or Halliburton?

I would be grateful to everyone who will help me to answer this question.

REFERENCES
* Straub FB, 1942. Actin. In: Studies from the Institute of Medical Chemistry University Szeged, vol. II (Szent-Gyorgyi, A. ed.) pp. 3-15, S. Krager, Basel-New-York: S. Krager.
* Fink H, 1968. On the discovery of actin. Science 160: 332. (Full text: http://actomyosin.narod.ru/Finck_Science_1968_p332.doc)
* Halliburton WD. 1887. On muscle plasma. J. Physiol. 8: 133.

Dr. Vladimir Matveev
Institute of Cytology
Russian Academy of Sciences
Lab of Cell Physiology
194064, St.Petersburg
Tikhoretsky Ave 4, Russia

PrimerBank

http://pga.mgh.harvard.edu/primerbank/

PrimerBank is a public resource for PCR primers. These primers are designed for gene expression detection or quantification (real-time PCR). There are several ways to search for primers: GenBank Accession, NCBI protein accession, LocusLink ID, PrimerBank ID or Keyword (gene description). PrimerBank contains about 180,000 primers covering most known human and mouse genes. Primers for other popular genomes will be added later. ISICR

FAMOUS FACTS

Here are some facts you may not have been aware of:

A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
A snail can sleep for three years.
Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.
Butterflies taste with their feet.
Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds. Dogs only have about 10.
February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
If the population of China walked past you in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.
In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
Leonardo DiVinci invented the scissors.
No word in the English language rhymes with month.
Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
Shakespeare invented the word 'assassination' and 'bump'.
"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand, "lollipop" with your right.
The cruise liner, QE2, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel that it burns.
The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
The words 'racecar' and 'kayak' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left.
TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
If you are an average American, in your whole life, you will spend an average of 6 months waiting at a red light.
In most advertisements, including newspapers, the time displayed on a watch face is 10:10.
Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two week otherwise it will digest itself.
There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."
There is a word in the English language with only one vowel, which occurs five times: "indivisibility."
The Bible does not say there were three wise men; it only says there were three gifts.
Did you know that crocodiles never outgrow the pool in which they live? That means that if you put a baby croc in an aquarium, it would be little for the rest of its life.
A group of geese on the ground is a gaggle; a group of geese in the air is a skein
A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
Pinocchio is Italian for "pine eye".
The sentence "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.
The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is "uncopyrightable"
Barbie's full name is Barbara Milicent Roberts.
It's impossible to lick your elbow.
More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.
Rats and horses can't vomit.
The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said toughest tongue twister in the English language...try it!
Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.
The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.
A duck's quack doesn't echo anywhere, and no one knows why.
Most lipstick contains fish scales.
Cat's urine glows under a black light.
Like fingerprints, everyone's tongue print is different.

NOW DON'T YOU FEEL SMARTER?

OK, Honestly did you try to lick your elbow?

2004 Joint ISICR/ICS Meeting San Juan, Puerto Rico Oct 21-25, 2004 http://www.cytokines2004.org/

This international conference, the fifth joint meeting of the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research and the International Cytokine Society, is designed to bring together leading investigators in cytokine biology, cancer, and immunology in a forum to illustrate the intersection of these expanding fields. The program emphasis is to integrate the major themes of both societies, and to provide molecular insights into the development of novel therapies for human disease. Scientific themes range from new cytokines and new technologies, to the roles of cytokines in tumor immunology, cell cycle control, inflammation, host defense, and angiogenesis. The clinical impact of cytokines in cancer, and the use of cytokines as therapeutics will also be a major focus of the meeting. Recent seminal findings in all major cytokine families will be covered. Fundamental research topics will include signal transduction, apoptosis, gene regulation, and cytokine structure-function. Scientists in academic institutions, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries will be represented as plenary speakers. Senior scientists, young investigators, physician-scientists, post-doctoral fellows, and students will all benefit from the perspectives that will be brought together at this unique joint international conference. This meeting will span four days of stimulating lectures, workshops, and poster discussions in the historic and beautiful city of San Juan, Puerto Rico. On behalf of all members of the Scientific Organizing Committee, I invite you to this outstanding international conference.

Matthew Fenton, Chair
Scientific Organizing Committee

Think About Sponsoring the Annual ISICR Meeting!

The ISICR meeting committee is now accepting proposals for the annual ISICR meeting from 2007 onward. Become involved with your society and consider sponsoring such a meeting in your favorite city! The Meetings committee can help you with the guidelines for organizing and hosting the annual meeting. For more information, contact Chris Czarniecki, Chair, ISICR Meetings Committee; email:cczarniecki@niaid.nih.gov

Interferon Archives Request

1. Photographs of individuals active in interferon research in the 1960s and 70s. These pictures should be from that period. Also, pictures taken at interferon meetings from that period. Please have the submitted material labeled with a soft pencil or with a sticker giving as much detail as possible.

2. Signed reprints of 2 or 3 papers published during that period by individuals whom have submitted biographical material to the archive.

Please send to:
Dr. Robert Friedman
Department of Pathology, USUHS
4301 Jones Bridge Rd
Bethesda, MD 20814-4799

ISICR COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Directors Meeting – Cairns, Australia

The Meeting was held on October 27, 2003 and was attended by Howard Young, Bryan Williams, Eleanor Fish, Sam Baron and chaired by Keiko Ozato. Robert Pestka, President and CEO of PBL was present part of the time (by invitation).

The first item in the meeting was a decision on the terms of the on-line access to the JICR, to be underwritten by PBL. The PBL had proposed to finance on line access to the JICR by all ISICR members for one year starting at the end of 2003. The company also expressed its intention to continue its support beyond 2004, pending the financial situation at that time. In exchange, PBL wishes to have increased visibility of their supply products to the ISICR members. Prior to this meeting, this matter has been discussed extensively between PBL and the extended Board members that included Dr. Robert Fleischmann, Chair of the Publications Committee. Robert Pestka gave a brief presentation confirming the company's intent to support this arrangement. It has been proposed that the access be made through the society website, rather than the website of the Publisher or PBL. Prior to the Board meeting, the Publication Committee approved the proposal on October 25. At the end of discussion the Board voted unanimously for this agreement.

The Board discussed another issue regarding the potential deficits that might be incurred by 2003 Annual meeting. According to the interim summary of meeting income/expenditures prepared by Paul Hertzog, there appear to be a shortfall attributable to a number of factors that had been not anticipated earlier, including a significant change in the Australian $/US $ exchange rate from the time the budget was developed, lower than anticipated attendance by ISICR members and lack of support from the local government. The final fiscal status of the meeting will have to wait for a few months when all transactions, including potential government and corporate support, are finalized.

Respectfully submitted,
Keiko Ozato, ISICR President

ISICR Awards Committee - 2003 Annual Report

The annual award committee meeting could not be held in Cairns since most of the members were not able to attend this years ISICR meeting.

However the committee members worked very hard during the 2003-year. They have selected Dr Tom Maniatis and Dr. John Hiscott as the recipient of the 2003 Milstein award and this selection was approved by the ISICR President, Dr. Keiko Ozato. The committee selected Dr. Jan Vilcek and Dr. Robert Friedman for the Honorary Membership and this selection was also approved.

The Committee reviewed the abstracts and past accomplishments of the applicants for the Young Investigator award and five of these applicants were selected. However, relatively few young researchers applied for this award and it seems that next year this award has to be better publicized.

The Committee reviewed about 80 applications for the travel award and these awards were selected on the basis of novelty and excellence of the work presented in the abstracts. There were 47 total travel awards made; however a few people who got the award did not attend the meeting and they were asked to return the funds.

The Christina Fleischmann award was given to Dr. Ann Leckie Cornish from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne.

Rather disappointing was the fact that Dr. Maniatis, Dr. Vilcek and Dr. Friedman could not attend the meeting and accept their awards because of their previously committed obligations. It is therefore recommended that the selection of the Milsltein awardee(s) should be started much earlier (March) and thus the final nominations could be made in early June.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula M. Pitha-Rowe, Ph.D.
Chair, ISICR Awards Committee

ISICR Meetings Committee, October 26, 2003, Cairns, Australia

The meeting was called to order on Sunday, October 26, 2003.
Present for all or part of the meeting were members and Ad hoc members: Allan Lau, Nancy Reich, Yuichiro Satoh, Paul Hertzog, Xin-yuan Liu and representatives from the ISICR Board of Directors, Keiko Ozato, Howard Young and Sam Baron. The meeting was chaired by Christine Czarniecki.

2002 - Torino, Italy
Neither Santo Landolfo nor Gianni Garotta were present and no report for last year's 2002 Meeting had been provided to the ISICR Meetings Committee. The 2002 meeting was a joint meeting of the ICS, ISICR European Cytokine Society and SLB (Society for Leukocyte Biology). The Meetings Committee would like to thank Santo and Gianni and their colleagues for their efforts for the successful meeting in Torino. Keiko Ozato and Sam Baron were able to confirm that there were approximately 700 attendees and that expenses plus the return of $11,000 (US) seed money from ISICR allowed the contribution of approximately $25,000 (US) in the form of a check to ISICR Treasurer, Samuel Baron. Total income was 509,950.67 Euros; total expenses were: 480,577.19 Euros.

As discussed in last year's Committee Meeting, the Organizers were displeased with the publishers of the abstract book (Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.). A decision has been made by the ISICR, that Mary Ann Liebert will no longer be responsible for publishing the Abstracts for the meeting. The local organizers will be responsible for identifying a publisher.

2003 - Cairns, Australia
Paul Hertzog provided an update on the status of this year's meeting in Cairns, Australia. The Committee thanked Paul and his colleagues for putting together an excellent scientific program. The major issue for discussion was financial status. The meeting organizers expect a deficit due to several issues: (i) the number of registrants is far lower than anticipated. The number of ISICR members attending is very low (130 of 320 total registered participants); (ii) the organizers had counted on government sponsorship that did not come through; (iii) the ICS meeting in Ireland occurred too close in time to this one - competing for participants; the organizers are still waiting for funds promised by industry sponsors that has still not come through; (iv) the organizers did not receive fund-raising assistance from ISICR members. The ISICR Board will be working with Paul and the Organizers to deal with the deficit. Paul will provide a detailed accounting of expenses and income. There was discussion of the need for the local organizers to communicate difficulties to the ISICR (Board and Meetings Committee) while planning is occurring through the year before the meeting.

2004 - San Juan, Puerto Rico
Nancy Reich provided an update report on the 2004 Joint Meeting with ICS. The theme of the meeting will be "Cytokines in Immunity and Cancer". An advertising flyer has been included in the registration materials for the Cairns meeting. The meeting will take place October 21 to 25, 2004 at the Caribe Hilton in Puerto Rico Thursday October 21 will be scheduled for Council Meetings, Keynote Addresses, the Milstein Award Seminar and the ICS Lifetime Membership Award Seminar. These will be followed by a Welcome Reception. October 22, 23 and 24 are full days with general sessions, breakouts, poster sessions and miscellaneous small meetings. October 25 will be scheduled for a partial day of sessions. Additionally a theme banquet will be held on the night of October 24. The additional Society Awards will be presented to recipients at the banquet. The Executive Scientific Organizing Committee includes Nancy Reich and John Hiscott representing ISICR and Matt Fenton and Nancy Ruddle representing ICS. A Scientific Organizing Committee representing both societies has also been established. Tak Mak (Ontario Cancer Institute) and Michael Karin (University of California, San Diego) are confirmed keynote speakers. In terms of fund-raising, Matt Fenton is preparing an NIH application and Eleanor Fish and John Hiscott plan to apply for Canadian government funds. Nancy will request seed funds from ISICR. Nancy provided an outline of the planned sessions. There will be 4 plenary sessions with 21 30-minute talks in: Cytokines and Cancer; Signal Transduction; Negative Regulation; and Host Defense. There will be 6 Symposium sessions covering the following topics: IL-10 and Treg Cells; Chemokines; Tumor Immunity; Angiogenesis; Cell Cycle Control; Inflammation. Sixteen Workshops will include the following topics: Interferon signaling; Immunomodulation; Therapeutics; Oncogenes; Gene regulation; Cytokine receptors; Structure-Function;

Adaptive Immunity; Interferons; Chemokines; TNF Family Members; Innate Immunity; New Cytokines; Emerging Diseases; Apoptosis There will be 3 poster sessions from 4-6PM with Wine and Cheese. Potential plenary speakers are currently being contacted for commitment. The committee members reminded Nancy of key points for joint meetings: Reach agreement early on regarding distribution of final meeting profits to the societies; ensure equal representation of each society in terms of session chairs; consider satellite meetings to increase registration;

2005 - Shanghai, China

Xin-yuan Liu presented an update on the planning for the 2005 ISICR meeting in Shanghai, China. The meeting will take place October 20-24, 2005. The venue will be in the Shanghai International Everbright Convention Center (IECC) which is the second largest convention center in Shanghai. The main conference auditorium can accommodate about 1000 people and more than 10 satellite meeting rooms of different sizes can be provided. There is a hotel with a total of 790 well-designed guestrooms. Transportation is very convenient with subway, bus and taxi, and it is very easy to reach the shopping center in the southwest part of Shanghai. An advertising flyer will be distributed at the current meeting in Cairns. The International Advisory Committee (IAC) has been established with about 40 IAC members including Ferid Murad (Nobel Prize Winner), K. Ozato, H. Young, S. Pestka, S. Baron and A. Lau. The National Advisory Committee (NAC) has also been established and includes more than 30 outstanding Chinese scientists, the president of Chinese Academy of Science, Prof. Yong-xiang Lu, the pioneer biologist of China, Prof. Jia-zhen Tan and many other outstanding Academicians of the Chinese Academy of Science. The committees have started fund-raising and a Preliminary Scientific Program has been proposed as follows: 1. Interferon/Cytokine/ Chemokine Signal Transudation Pathways and their Regulation 2. Interferon/Cytokine/Chemokine receptors 3. Regulation of Interferon/Cytokine/Chemokine Expression 4. Interferon/cytokine/Chemokine induced genes and their functions 5. New Interferon/Cytokines/ Chemokines 6. Interferon/Cytokine/Chemokine and Immunology (including T cell/B cell/Dendritic cell biology 7. Interferons/Cytokines and Cancer 8. Interferons/Cytokines and Apoptosis 9. Interferons/ Cytokines and Infectious Diseases, Inflammation and related disorders 10. Interferons/Cytokines/ Chemokines and Autoimmune/Neurological Diseases 11. Clinical use of Interferons/Cytokines/Chemokines 12. Interferons/Cytokines/ and Biotech Industry. Section chairpersons will be chosen and, he/she will be responsible for inviting speakers in the respective section. The organizers are also considering a Satellite symposium in the area of Apoptosis or Immunity to be organized in XiAn or HangZhou. There was some discussion of the difficulties of scientists in China paying high fees and how to establish the registration fee for the meeting. Allan Lau suggested that there might be some way to establish a "block grant" for registration subsidies to which interested participants could apply. Allan offered to work with Dr. Liu on this issue. We also discussed the importance of advertising for the meeting - to attract participants. Howard Young offered to assist Dr. Liu with announcements.

Proposal for 2006

At last year's committee meeting, Josef Schwarzmeier and the Austrian organizing committee provided a proposal to the Meetings Committee for a meeting in Vienna in 2006 in the form of a written letter. Josef could not attend the Cairns meeting; however he communicated with Christine Czarniecki prior to the meeting. In 1998 and 1999, Josef presented to the ISICR Meetings Committee, formal proposals for a joint ISICR/ICS Meeting in Vienna for 2002. At that time, the committee approved the proposal and recommended that site to the ISICR Board. However due to the nature of the political atmosphere at the time the two societies decided to schedule the 2002 meeting in Torino, instead. After discussions with ICS, Josef is now requesting that the ISICR Meetings Committee re-review his original Meeting Proposal for 2006. Two venues are being considered: the Hofburg Congress Center and the new Vienna Hilton located downtown and within easy reach from the airport (direct train). The ICS asked Josef to consider another Austrian city (Salzburg, Innsbruck). Josef is currently collecting information, but he feels that Vienna, for many reasons, is the preferable place. Apparently, the ICS is in favor of Josef's proposal and ICS's decision to go to Vienna in 2006 will be communicated to ISICR either by Dr. Oppenheim (ICS) or by other ICS council member. The Meetings Committee discussed Josef's proposal. As previously, we are still in favor of this proposal. Based on the locations of meetings in 2003 (Australia), 2004 (US), and 2005 (Asia) a meeting site in Europe would be desirable for 2006. Either venue is acceptable

but we are more strongly in favor of the Vienna Hilton (lower costs, new facility, location in town). The Meetings Committee recommends to the ISICR Board that Vienna, Austria be chosen for the 2006 joint ISICR/ICS Meeting.

New Proposals
The ISICR Meetings Committee currently has no proposals to consider for meetings beyond 2006. We recommend that the ISICR Board make a plea to ISICR members to solicit for new proposals. The Committee also recommended that the ISICR Newsletter print an Ad to solicit for new proposals.

Other Business
Christine Czarniecki reviewed current committee membership and global area of representation. Members whose terms are complete as of 2003: Santo Landolfo (Europe); Allan Lau and Yuichiro Satoh (Asia); Joan Durbin and Nancy Reich (US). The Committee thanks these members for their efforts in serving on the Committee. The current Ad hoc members and their terms are: Paul Hertzog (to 2004), Nancy Reich (to 2005) Xian-yuan Liu (to 2006). Christine will work with Howard Young to identify new committee members to represent US and Europe and Asia.

There was no other business to discuss and the Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Czarniecki
Chair, ISICR Meetings Committee

ISICR Membership Committee, October 26th, Cairns, Australia

Present: Dr. Heinz-Kurt Hochkeppel (chair), Dr. Howard Young, Dr. Eleanor Fish

1. ISICR Membership Statistics as of September 15, 2003

A. Current Members:
1. Paid Members- 624

Breakdown of Membership:
a) Members who renewed - 532
b) New Members - 92
c) Members who renewed with bad addresses - 0

Status:
a) Regular Members - 487
b) Student Members - 114
c) Corporate Members - 12
d) Emeritus Members - 11

2. Honorary Members - 22

Total Paid and Honorary members - 646

B. For Follow-up:

1. Active Members paid in 2002 who have not renewed - 142
2. Active Members paid in 2001 who have not renewed - 100

C. Marked for Deletion:

1. Members whose last dues payments were in 2000 - 77

Total potential loss of members: - 325

Analysis: There is still a substantial loss of membership. The present attempts to sustain and/or increase ISICR membership (newsletter; FASEB addressing members not paying their dues, etc.) don't seem to be effective enough to prevent further loss of members.

2. **Recommendations**

a) The Membership Committee once again proposes to initiate discussions with ICS for a possible merger of both Societies. It was felt that small Scientific Societies have only a chance to survive unless they maintain a critical mass. However, ISICR and ICS have so many overlapping interests/activities that, by competing, they take potential members away from both societies. A merger would end this unnecessary competition, and a united ISICR/ICS Society might be more attractive for corporate sponsors to invest in and support the Society since it would be larger and more visible. In support of this argument, the joint ISICR-ICS conferences attract far more attendees than the meetings held by the individual societies. Alternatively, if a formal merger of both societies would be too cumbersome, it is recommended to consider yearly joint ISICR/ICS meetings.

The ISICR Membership Committee officially asks the ISICR Board of Directors to discuss this urgent matter, and if a consensus can be reached, to select representatives for initiation of discussions with ICS in order to possibly nominate a steering committee. The main task of such a committee should be to define the main problems/issues which need to be solved on both sites in order to facilitate a possible merger within the next 3 years or, at least, to arrange regular yearly joint annual ISICR/ICS meetings.

b) The means to better advertise ISICR were addressed. It was once again recommended to design a 1 page flyer describing the advantages of joining ISICR for distribution at various major international congresses (e.g., AIDS, ASM, AAI, AACR, ASCO, etc.). A draft of such a flyer * is below.

c) Finally it was felt that the International Council Members of ISICR should be more involved by FASEB in following up with members who do not renew.

Respectfully submitted,
Heinz-Kurt Hochkeppel
Chair, ISICR Membership Committee

** Draft Flyer :*

The International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research

The International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research (ISICR) is a non-profit organization of over 650 scientists devoted to research in the fields of interferon, cytokine and chemokine cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry and the clinical use of these biological response modifiers. Each year the ISICR sponsors an international meeting where scientists from around the world can present their latest findings to the world-wide scientific community. Membership in the society is open to all individuals interested in interferons, cytokines and chemokines. Full membership is only $50/year and $10/year for students/postdoctoral fellows. Benefits of membership are many, including:

1. *Awards for scientific accomplishments in the field (the Milstein Award ($20,000), The Milstein Young Investigator Awards, The Christina Fleischmann Memorial Award for a young Woman Scientist.*
2. *Travel Awards to the Annual meeting (2004 San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2005 Shanghai, China)*
3. *A informative and useful newsletter, published 3 times/year.*
4. *Opportunities to network with colleagues and peers*
5. *Access to the online version of the Journal of Interferon and Cytokine Research*

We invite you to join our society and become part of a scientific community. For an application, go to www.isicr.org. For more information about the ISICR, please contact the ISICR President for 2004-2005, Howard Young (email: youngh@ncifcrf.gov)

ISICR Publications Committee, October 26, 2003, Cairns, Australia

The Meeting of the Publications Committee was called to order at 12:00 pm on October 26, 2003. Committee members present included Bob Fleischmann, Xiaojing Ma, Jerry Tilles, Deborah Vestal, and Ganes Sen (ex officio). Keiko Ozato joined the meeting as a guest at 12:25 pm. There were several items of new business.

1. Ganes Sen presented a review of the status of the JICR. Highlights of his review include the following.

a. The impact factor of the JICR slipped somewhat from a high rating of 2.281 in 2001 to a still very respectable rating of 1.885 in 2002.
b. The current year is running somewhat behind recent years in both the number of articles received (158) and in the number of articles accepted (72). Consequently, the current year is running somewhat behind recent years in the number of pages published: 740 pages estimated for 2003 compared to 1,100 to 1,400 pages over the past 5 years.
c. The decline in manuscript submissions is of concern to the editors (Ganes and Tom Hamilton). The committee brainstormed with Ganes to identify several methods that might be employed to rejuvenate the journal.

i. First, it was recognized that a downturn in manuscript submissions was to be anticipated as a natural consequence of a change in the journal leadership.

ii. Second, turnover of a number of Section Editors and Editorial Board members (as mandated by our most recent contract with Mary Ann Liebert) should bring new enthusiasm to the journal.

iii. Third, it is essential that members of the ISICR but, particularly Section Editors and members of the Editorial Board, support the journal through the submissiion of their work for publication.

d. The review of the JICR was accepted and endorsed by vote of the Committee.

2. A contract proposal by Mary Ann Liebert to provide the JICR on-line to all members was discussed. Features of the proposal include the following.
   a. Subscription to the on-line journal would be tied to membership in the ISICR.
   b. The price for the on-line subscription would be dependent upon the number of ISICR members but would be in the range of about $25 per member.
   c. The contract proposal was endorsed by the Committee with the added suggestion that the contract be negotiated for 5 years with a 6 months "out clause", allowing either side to terminate the agreement with 6 months notice.

3. The very generous offer of PBL, Inc. to underwrite the cost of JICR on-line access for all members for the forthcoming year was discussed. The proposal is to access the journal on-line through the ISICR site, with PBL, Inc. having a prominent advertisement and link to their web-page on the journal access page. The offer was greatly welcomed and endorsed by vote of the Committee. It is hoped that PBL, Inc. will be able to extend this generous offer beyond the one year period of time.

4. Ganes presented nominations for two new members of the Editorial Board: Michael Gale and Deborah Vestal. Their nominations were endorsed by vote of the Committee.

With no other business, the Publications Committee adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Fleischmann
Chair, ISICR Publications Committee

ISICR Nomenclature Committee, October 26, 2003, Cairns, Australia

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm on Sunday, October 26, 2003 at the Annual Meeting of the ISICR at the Conference Centre in Cairns. Members present were Erik Lundgren (chair) and Isabel Marie. The decisions taken are the result of e-mail contacts with the other members before and after the meeting.

The following issues were considered:
New information was given concerning mouse Limitin (Kawamoto S, Oritani K, Asada H, Takahashi I, Ishikawa J, Yoshida H et al. J Virol 2003;77(17):9622-31.). Based on this and previously presented data concerning genomic properties, receptor binding, antiviral activity and signaling it was decided to consider Limitin as a type I interferon with the gene designation *IFNZ* and the protein designation IFN-ζ. According to previous principles the mouse Limitin gene (AY220460) should be designated as *MuIFNZ* and the protein MuIFN-ζ.

A murine constitutively expressed gene with antiviral properties was discussed (van Pesch V, Michiels T. J Biol Chem 2003;278(47):46321-8.). Based on antiviral activity, sequence homology and genomic properties it was decided to designate the gene as *MuIFNA13* and the encoded protein MuIFN-α13. The human genes encoding proteins with antiviral activities with the accession numbers AY129148, AY129149, AY129150 and designated IL-28A, IL-28B and IL-29 in the genomic databases (Sheppard et al., Nature Immunol. 2003, 4: 63-68,) and IFN-λ2, IFN-λ3 and IFN-λ1 (AY184373, AY184374 and AY184372), respectively, by other authors (Kotenko et al., Nat. Immunol. 4: 69-77) were discussed. These proteins use a new receptor, in which the β-chain is shared by the IL-10 receptor (IL-28Rα/IL-10Rβ or CRF2-12/CRF2-4). They have weak homology to both type I interferons and IL-10. They have antiviral activity and share signaling pathways and the ability to induce some effector molecules with type I interferons. The chairman has been in contact with the HUGO Gene

Nomenclature Committee and discussed the possibility to include an IFN designation besides the IL designation. After consultations with authors from the two groups (Dr Kindsvogel, Zymogenetics and Dr Kotenko, UMDNJ) the committee decided to designate these proteins as type III interferons. The chairman was asked to contact the HUGO Gene Nomenclature Committee for the inclusion of IFN-λ1, 2 and 3 designations as alternatives in the databases.

Respectfully submitted
Erik Lundgren
Isabelle Marie

ISICR Finance Committee, Cairns, Australia

The finance committee met with the Board of Directors at the ISICR meeting in Cairns, Australia. ISICR Treasurer, Sam Baron, presented the current budget, the proposed budget, and the CPA review of the ISICR budget with the CPA approval. After review, the Board of Directors and officers approved the budgets. The Board also did a preliminary review of the finances of the Cairns meeting and requested more information for review in order to better understand why the meeting ran a deficit. The financial and procedural guidelines for future meetings were also discussed.

ISICR BUDGET

DESCRIPTION - EXPENSES	2003	PROPOSED 2004
Accounting[1]	$ 2,700	$ 2,700
Administrative Expenses - FASEB	$ 35,800	$ 35,800
Administrative Expenses – Miscellaneous[2]	$ 500	$ 500
Awards Travel to Annual Meeting	$ 50,000	$ 50,000
Bank Charges	$ 250	$ 250
Consulting[3]	$ 1,800	$ 1,800
Meeting Expenses (Annual and AAI)[4]	$ 6,000	$ 11,000
Office Expenses:[5]		
President	$ 500	$ 500
Secretary – General	$ 6,500	$ 6,500
Wages	$ 10,500	$ 10,500
Treasurer	$ 250	$ 250
Travel – President's Office[6]	$ 4,000	$ 4,000
TOTAL	**$118,800**	**$123,800**
INCOME		
Dues	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Corporate Sponsors	$ 30,000	$ 50,000
Annual Meeting Advance Reimbursement	$ 11,000	$ 5,000
Annual Meeting Income	$ 25,000	$ 25,000
Grants (Fleischmann Scholarship)	$ 1,000	$ 1,000
Interest Income	$ 336	$ 336
Other (Advertising, Rent Mail List, etc.)	$ 3,000	$ 3,000
TOTAL	**$95,336**	**$109,336**
NET	**($23,464)**	**($14,464)**

Footnotes to the 2004 Budget

[1]Required accounting audit and IRS filing.

[2]Administrative: Miscellaneous – Florida registration fee and other small items.

[3]Consulting – We currently pay George Galasso $450 per quarter to implement programs at FASEB.

[4]Meeting Expenses – An advance of $10000 for the next annual meeting (San Juan, Puerto Rico) is budgeted for possible use. We have also budgeted $1,000 for the annual AAI meeting.

[5]Office Expenses for President, Secretary and Treasurer – Based on their estimates.

[6]Travel: President's Office – Continued at $4,000. In the past this item has been used to defray some travel expenses to the annual meeting of the honorary awardees and contingencies.

The ISICR
wishes all its members a
New Year filled with
good health,
happiness,
success and prosperity.
May all your papers be
accepted without revision
and
all your grant applications
be successful!!!!

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR INTERFERON AND CYTOKINE RESEARCH

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in a field related to Interferon and Cytokine Research

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